

Features

Community Affairs

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Then...



The Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library as it looked in 1906.

Changin' times

T s JAN 22 1984

Historic Fairbanks Building is new home for art students

The exterior wrappings haven't changed much, but inside, you'd hardly recognize the Emeline Fairbanks Building these days.

The building, at 222 N. Seventh St., which housed the Vigo County Public Library for 72 years, has been a local landmark since it was built in April of 1906.

Today, the owners of the historic building — Indiana State University — will officially unveil the building's \$1.4 million transition from book repository to new home for ISU art students. An open house to show off the new art facility is scheduled from 2 to 4 p.m. Members of the art faculty and department chairman Fred Bunce will be on hand to conduct tours and answer questions.

The limestone structure, given to the university in 1978 by the City of Terre Haute and the Vigo County Public Library, will be known as Fairbanks Hall. Renovation work began 12 months ago following a bonding authorization from the state Legislature for more than \$1 million of the required funds.

Although the off-white paint, sleek curved walls and open duct work give the refurbished building a modern look, some things have been preserved from the old structure, most notably the original carving and stained glass windows in the 28-foot dome.

Stained glass panels in the dome feature 16 likenesses of such historic figures as Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson, Ludwig Beethoven, William Shakespeare, as well as Indiana statesmen Richard W. Thompson and Daniel Voorhees, among others. A series of large, round lights draws attention to the dome which serves as a ceiling to upstairs

offices as well as a large classroom on the ground floor.

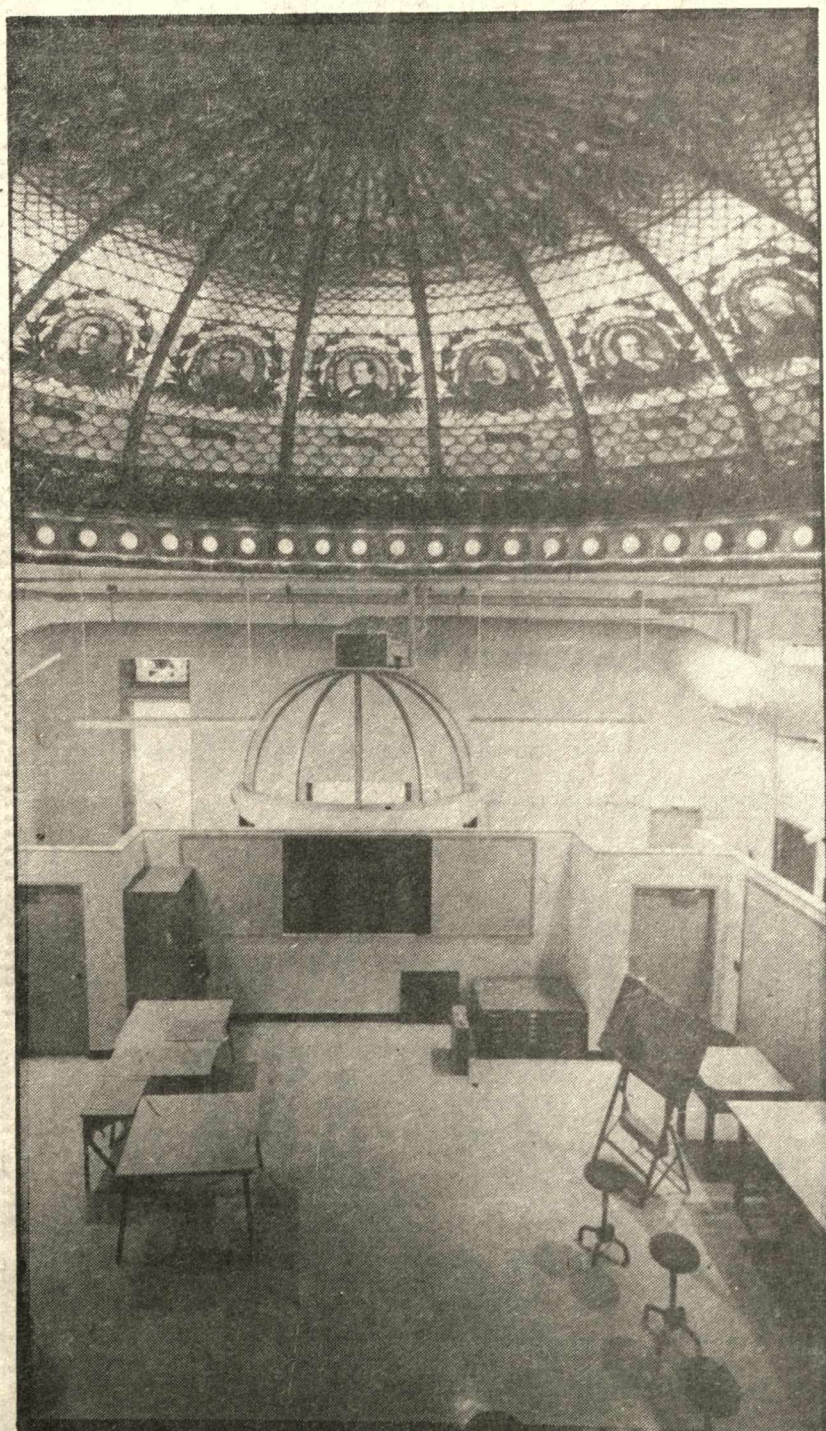
On all exterior windows single-paned glass was replaced with thermal-paned glass, although original stained glass sections remain atop some of the new windows. The three large ground floor rooms, which once housed thousands of books and magazines, have been partitioned and a mezzanine added for offices. The electrical system was completely re-done, air conditioning was added, and the exterior was cleaned. To make the building accessible to the handicapped, a ramp was constructed and an elevator installed.

Ground was broken for the library in March of 1904. Crawford Fairbanks, wealthy industrialist and son of early settler and former Mayor Henry Fairbanks, helped finance the building which was to be maintained by the city. The building was named after Crawford Fairbanks' mother, Emeline. Architects for the original \$50,000 project were William H. Floyd and Charles E. Scott. Construction was done by Noah Brill of Modern Construction Co. The facility was governed by the board of Vigo County school trustees until 1974 when a separate library board was named.

The library building was moved to its present location, Seventh and Walnut streets, in April of 1979.

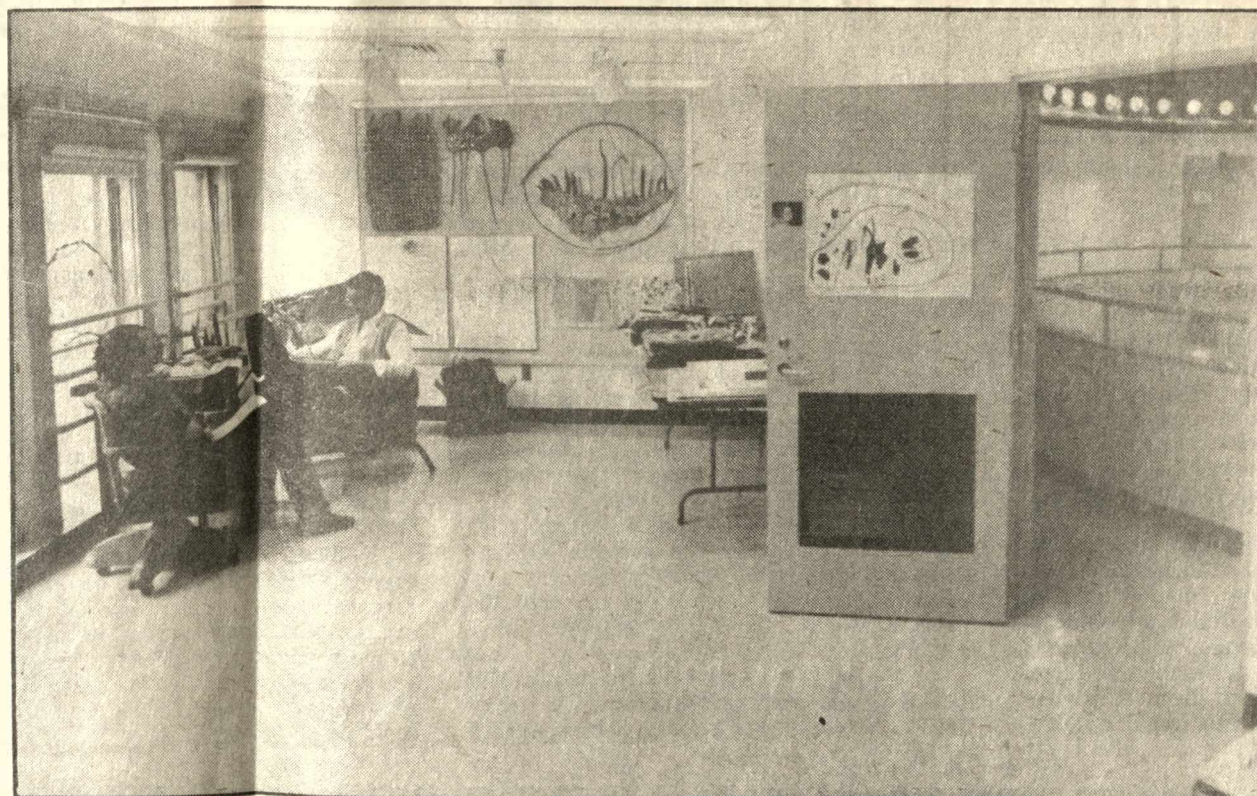
Contractors for the Fairbanks Hall renovation project were Freitag-Weinhart, AAA Electrical and Shelton Hannig Inc., all of Terre Haute. Besides the new art center, ISU has other art facilities in the Fine Arts Building at 6½ and Chestnut streets and an annex on Fourth Street near Lafayette Avenue.

...and now



The stained glass dome has been preserved.)

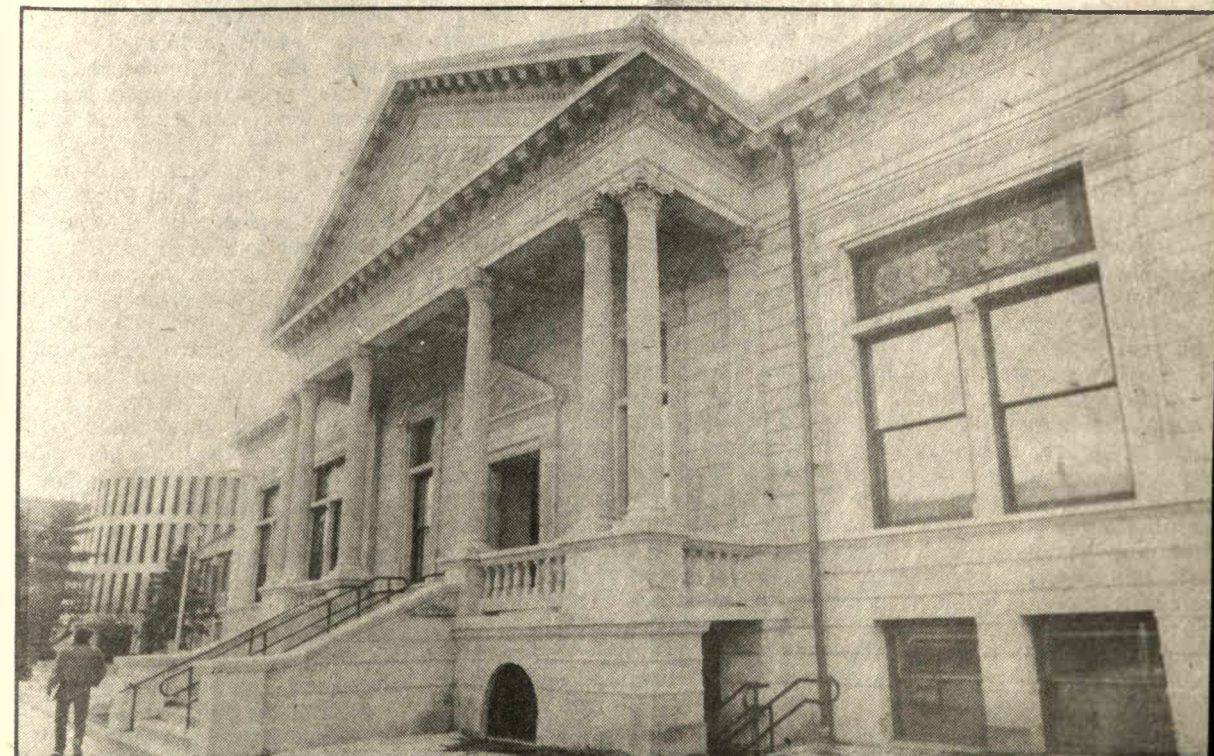
Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis



A typical, second-floor studio for ISU art students. Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Open house

Officials at Indiana State University have invited residents to see the newly renovated Fairbanks Hall today from 2 to 4 p.m. The building, which served as Vigo County's main library branch for more than seven decades, is the new home for art students at the university. Members of the art faculty and department chairman Fred Bunce will be available to conduct tours and answer questions during the open house. Cost for one-year renovation project was \$1.4 million.



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynt

The building got a much-needed cleaning and stronger windows.

Vigo County Public Library

Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra has concert Thursday; CT to present 'Tusmet' Friday.

E5

Section

Sunday,
January 22,
1984

E



The library's lobby area. A second floor of books was later added.



This room served as a children's center in the early years.

Verbeke - Sentinel
~~Biography~~
Author Of
ISU Fight
~~ISU~~ 6-3-85
Song Dies
Community Affairs File

Joseph A. Gremelspacher, 80, died at 3:15 p.m. Monday, May 27, at Wesley Manor in Frankfort. A music educator, he had taught at Rockville.

Born June 8, 1904 in Logansport, he was the son of William and Jessie O'Neill Gremelspacher. He married Beth Miller, who preceded him in death. He also taught at Warren Central and was supervisor of music at Crawfordsville from 1929 to 1939.

Known as "Mr. Music Education" at Indiana State University, he directed the symphonic, marching and basketball bands from 1939 to 1970. He wrote the ISU fight song, "March On, March On, You Fighting Sycamores." He was presented the first Outstanding Bandmasters Award in 1973 by the Indiana Bandmasters Association.

He graduated from Butler University and earned his B.A. degree in music from Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music. He received his master of arts degree in music from Indiana State University.

He was a member of Delta Tau Delta, Elks Lodge, Indiana Music Educators Association, Indiana School Music Association, Indiana Bandmasters Association, Music Educators National Conference, Phi Mu Alpha Grand Chapter, and Kappa Kappa Psi Grand Chapter, a national honorary band fraternity. He served from 1942 to 1945 in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

He is survived by a stepdaughter, Barbara Bushong of Crawfordsville.

Services were conducted Thursday at Hunt and Son Funeral Home in Crawfordsville with Rev. Chester Mahan officiating. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery. The family requested that any memorials be in the form of contributions to the Joseph A. Gremelspacher University Band Music Education Award, Indiana State University Foundation.

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